

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF FULTON
CITY OF SOUTH FULTON

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-006

RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE CERTAIN PROTOCOLS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAKING COMMENTS; TO INSTITUTE A PROCESS OF RESPONDING TO CITIZENS' QUESTIONS PROVIDED IN CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; PROVIDING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH FULTON; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of South Fulton ("City") is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, in our system of representative government, the Mayor and City Council members are charged with the responsibility of informing themselves and making sound decisions that affect the lives of the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, it is a commonly accepted practice in Georgia cities to provide an opportunity for members of the public to give comment as part of City Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and the Council that citizens be provided the opportunity to make comments at City Council meetings in accordance with established procedures; and

WHEREAS, it is important to provide a fair and open response to questions presented to the Mayor and Council, so that citizens are informed and engaged in our local government.

THEREFORE, IT IS NOW RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Public Comments Generally.** Members of the public who wish to make comments at a City Council meeting, must adhere to the following protocol:
 - a. The person desiring to speak should rise, address the City Council, and when recognized, state their name, address, and the City Council district in which they reside (if applicable).
 - b. Comments shall be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker.
2. **Responses to Questions.** The City Manager or his or her designee shall observe the comments made to the Council, and if a question is posed by a member of the public who provides his or her email address or phone number, the City Manager or his or her designee shall make every reasonable effort to answer the question

within two business days. However, this requirement may be waived for dignitaries, elected officials, and other individuals at the discretion of any Councilmember or the Mayor.

If any speaker is a citizen of the City of South Fulton, the City Manager or his or her designee, shall apprise the councilmember in whose district the speaker resides to inform him or her of issues or concerns raised by a speaker. The City Manager or his or her designee shall also provide the councilmember the answer or resolution, if any, provided to the speaker by City staff.

The Council acknowledges that questions may be posed by members of the public which cannot be answered to the satisfaction of the speaker. However, even if the City Manager or his or her designee cannot answer a speaker's question, they shall contact the speaker and explain the limitations of the request. Reasons for failing to provide an answer may include, but are not limited to: the question falls outside the control, administration, or purview of the City; the answer requires the release of confidential information; the answer destroys attorney-client privilege or confidentiality; the question addresses a personnel matter; the question is one that cannot be answered with facts; the question requires the disclosure of personal identifying information; the question requires disclosure of discussions in executive session; the question requires the disclosure of information obtained in an incomplete investigation; the question requires disclosure of any information that would otherwise be exempt from disclosure pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a); the question, in the discretion of the City Manager or his or her designee cannot otherwise be answered.

3. **Posting of Responses to Questions.** The City Council seeks to provide transparency in government. However, the Council also acknowledges that the responses to some questions posed by citizens may reveal information about the speaker which should not be made publicly available. Therefore, when responding to a speaker's question, the City Manager or his or her designee shall determine whether, in his or her view, the response to the question contains information that would benefit the public generally without revealing any information about the speaker that should not be made publicly available. If a determination is made in the affirmative, the City Manager or his or her designee shall make every reasonable effort to include that information in the "How Do I" section of the City's website.
4. **Severability.** To the extent, any portion of this Resolution is declared invalid, unenforceable or non-binding, that shall not affect the remaining portions of this Resolution.
5. **Repeal of Conflicting Provisions.** All City resolutions are hereby repealed to the extent they are inconsistent with this Resolution.
6. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The foregoing RESOLUTION No. **2018-006** was adopted on **February 13, 2018** was offered by Councilmember **Gumbs**, who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by Councilmember **Gilyard**, and being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

	AYE	NAY
William "Bill" Edwards, Mayor	<u> √ </u>	<u> </u>
Mark Baker, Mayor Pro Tem	<u> √ </u>	<u> </u>
Catherine Foster Rowell, Mayor Pro Tem	<u> √ </u>	<u> </u>
Carmalitha Lizandra Gumbs	<u> √ </u>	<u> </u>
Helen Zenobia Willis	<u> √ </u>	<u> </u>
Gertrude Naeema Gilyard	<u> √ </u>	<u> </u>
Rosie Jackson	<u> √ </u>	<u> </u>
khalid kamau	<u> √ </u>	<u> </u>

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this 13th day of February 2018. CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA.


WILLIAM "BILL" EDWARDS, MAYOR

ATTEST:


MARK MASSEY, CITY CLERK



Item#: Res2018-006 Date: 2/13/2018

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


JOSH BELINFANTE, INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY